

HOLT CHAMBER OF TRADE
 Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 6th February 2013
 in The Community Centre at 18.00 hrs

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| Ian Furniss | The Tannery | 07818405564 |
| Martin Sanders (Treasurer) | Larking Gowen | 712017 |
| Charles Butler | Butler's Pantry | 711867 |
| Duncan Baker | Bakers and Larners of Holt | 712244 |
| Caroline Carter | The Holt Chronicle | 712177 |
| Len Casey | Guided Media | 768156 |
| Joshua Dyball | Josh.biz | 862610 |
| Sandra Taylor-Meeds | Budgens | 713734 |
| Lynda Mossman (Membership Sec) | Past Caring | 713771 |
| David Makinson | The Holt Bookshop | 715858 |
| Julie Nelson | Nelson's Eye Patch | 711810 |
| Chloe Nelson | Nelson's Eye Patch | 711810 |

Present: Ian Furniss (Chair) Martin Sanders, Esme Bagnall Oakley, Duncan Baker, Len Casey, Joshua Dyball, Lindsay Furniss, Michael Hill, Teresa Hill, Martin Johnston, David Makinson, Lynda Mossman, Chloe Nelson, Julie Nelson, Jim Pallister, Paul Read, Ashlea Smith, Sandra Taylor Meeds

Apologies: Caroline Carter, Allison Cook, Ian Cook, Nigel Emmett, Adrian Hill, Linda Morris, Rodney Smith, Helen Stoker, James Stone, James Stronach

Minutes of Last Meeting: The minutes of the meeting of 17th January 2013 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Chairman's Announcements: Ian passed around a thank-you card received from John Lintott.

Treasurer's Report: The current balance was reported as £4436.79. Everyone was happy with the current spending, there had been an increase in expenditure because of the change of venue, (Byfords was a free venue, but very small) and extra hours from the secretary due to longer meetings and additional meetings. If all members continue we will have 95 members.

Everyone is encouraged to see if we can find a low cost or free venue for future meetings.

Membership Report: There were two new members this month Stephen Fearn, Morston Country Sports and Martin Johnston, HR Dept. Lynda was concerned that 5 years ago when she took on the role there were 80 plus members and despite 20 -50 new members per year there were still only 90 plus members. The chair agreed and advised that we should concentrate on expansion and retention of existing members by making clear what we stand for and what we hoped to achieve in the future.

Agree the main purpose of the meeting is to establish the Chamber's reason for objecting to the planned Thaxter's site supermarket: The Chair felt it was worth taking time to resolve how we felt and what we were going to do, this was in preparation for the action committee meeting on 9th Feb and NNDC Planning Committee meeting on the 14th. However it was reported that the Thaxter's Supermarket site would not now come before the committee meeting of the 14th. No new date was known. It was felt there was uncertainty in the Town about what the Chamber felt and why. The general feeling amongst the members present was that the Chamber was trying to promote what was best for the whole Town taking a long term view. A statement should be agreed and produced that was conciliatory and considered and would help build bridges within the town. (see next item). MH felt we must put the Gresham's plan to one side, because it clouds the issue and members of the Chamber were seen to be too close. This could be dealt with when the plans had been submitted.

Thaxter's Supermarket: The chair had prepared a one page document with reasons for objecting to

the supermarket, which he asked the meeting to comment on: The meeting spent about 45 minutes considering the content of the document. The Chair took note of the comments made by members and said he would prepare a revised document. This document will be circulated with the minutes as soon as possible to give members a further chance to comment. The meeting agreed that the document should become a consensus view for the Chamber.

Holt Christmas Lights 21st Nov 2012: Esme reported back that the night had been successful with publicity in the North Norfolk News, The EDP, The Holt Chronicle and an article in the December issue of the Norfolk Magazine. Contribution from the Traders had been down but this could be offset against a change of lighting contractor which saved money. Esme felt the Independent Traders in the town were the 'Good Guys' and the large conglomerates were the 'bad guys' contributing little either in time, presentation or donations. There would be a surplus but only a small amount. There was a need to push that this was not a charity it was being done to support the Town. Duncan Baker suggested we may attract more people if the switch on was performed by a celebrity, Esme assured the group that the committee had tried but could not afford the fees asked by many.

Suggestions Lindsay Furniss would ask Jeremy Barlow: Ian Furniss would ask Deleval Astley and Chloe Nelson would ask John Maddern for suggestions.

The Chair thanked Esme and her committee for their work on the lights and said that the Chamber should be more supportive of the Holt Lights over the coming year.

Holt Town Council Report: There is nothing more to report on the Thaxter's Supermarket site at this time. The Thornage Road Car Park planning application was due to come before the NNDC planning meeting of 14th Feb. Gresham's had asked the Town Council to support their proposed plan, but the Town Council had declined from commenting until the planning application was received.

Data Base: The tourism survey had now closed. Ian Furniss would speak with Chris Scargill of Larkin Gowen regarding questions for the Chamber survey.

Volunteers for Holt Parking Policy joint with Holt Town Council: It was agreed a sub committee should be formed to look into current problems, usage, costs etc and volunteers were called for. Michael Hill and Duncan Baker volunteered and both Ian Cooke and Nigel Emmet had previously expressed a wish to be involved. It was agreed at this time not to widen the membership but to consider in the future inviting NNDC as they were the authority responsible for car parks in the town, and Holt Town Council.

Holt Vision - report of meeting 28th January 2013: Due to illness our rep, Julie Nelson, had been unable to attend. Michael Hill attended as a member of the Public and reported back to the meeting that nothing had been decided. Most things depended on car parking and money, and there is no money available. Cllr M Baker had come up with a list of suggestions from the vision that may be completed without involving high costs. The matter of a travel plan for those disadvantaged by the Surgery move to High Kelling appears to have slipped and this would be taken up. There is a problem with the turning circle required by busses at the surgery site. Julie Nelson has a document showing items the Chamber should be lead in and would e mail to all members for comments.

Both Rhu and Rod had resigned as Chamber representatives on the Vision Committee, new representatives are being sought.

Any Other Business: Martin Johnston introduced himself. He is able to supply any business with HR services either on a one-off situation or on a retainer. He can also arrange to e mail updates on employment issues monthly.

The chair spoke of future ideas for the Chamber which could include consolidated buying of utilities, streamline, rates. There was the possibility the members could get more out financially than they pay in membership. He asked for ideas for the next meeting to work

together to provide a cost basis of business. We could also consider linking in with the County Chamber. Ian would work on the values and objectives for the next meeting. Julie Nelson asked about the progress of the Constitution, James Pallister to pass on the basic document to be sent to all members for comment.

Paul Read asked for a list of members who had not rejoined and perhaps those who knew them well could ask why they had left. The Chair requested that this be considered by everyone at the next meeting.

Michael Hill has just completed a survey of all businesses in Holt and offered to share this with the Chamber.

Duncan Baker reminded the meeting that the nominations for the Holt Honours were due in by 15th February and encouraged the group to submit nominations.

Next Meeting: 6pm on Tuesday 12th March venue to be confirmed.